

XVII.—THE INDIAN CUCKOO (*CUCULUS M.*  
*MICROPTERUS GOULD*).

For some time past I have suspected that *Cuculus m. micropterus* deposited its eggs in the nests of *Dicrurus m. albivictus*, but so far I had been unable to obtain any definite evidence, the nearest approach to proof being that of once observing a pair of these Drongos taking a significant interest in a young, but fully fledged Indian cuckoo. However, I never saw them feeding it, and as I was pressed for time I had to move on. I am now indebted to Mr. H. Storrs of Tersati Tea Estate who has the honour of having at last cleared up the mystery attached to this cuckoo's nidification in the plains of North Bengal.

Last month a pair of these drongos built in a tree near his bungalow, and in due course a young cuckoo was hatched out. Mr. Storrs thus had the unique opportunity of observing the bird being fed by the foster parents in the nest. He informed me of the event, and I was hoping to obtain a photo of the drongos feeding the young bird, but unfortunately the recent continuous rain made this impossible. On the 31st May, the cuckoo looked as if it might leave the nest at any moment. So Mr. Storrs decided to capture it alive, but as it was just able to fly from the nest out of reach he shot it, and kindly sent the bird on to me for identification.

Contrary to the information in the *Fauna* this cuckoo is a true migrant in the Duars and foot hills of Bhutan. By November every bird has left the District. The adult birds are the first to leave in August and September, and the young follow in October.

The birds return at the end of March, and the well-known call of 'make more pekoe' is usually heard about the 28th of that month. Only once in many years have I noticed a definite migratory movement, this was when out shooting on the 25th March, 1925. Numbers of birds were met with that morning, all were tired and restless, perching for a short time and then hurrying on again.

*Cuculus m. micropterus* is very common in the Duars and one must take one's hat off to him for having kept, so long and successfully, the secret of his nidification in the plains. On the other hand it is possible that we have much overrated the intelligence of the Black Drongo.

HULDIBARI TEA ESTATE,

DUARS, NORTH BENGAL.

H. V. O'DONEL.

June 10, 1936.

XVIII.—A CUCKOO (*C. CANORUS* LINN.) INCIDENT.

In view of Mr. T. R. Livesey's remarks on his experiences with Cuckoos in the Shan States (*Journal*, xxxviii, 401-3) I venture to record my own experience which occurred on the evening of June 7, 1936, at 6 p.m.